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tion an antitoxic or curative power, that is to say, it will protect an animal against the toxins of plague, or the animal having been inoculated with plague, it will exert its curative or antitoxic influence. The difference is one of degree and not of kind. Every antitoxic serum is immunizing to a high degree, but the reverse does not hold good. It can therefore be laid down as a general rule that to prepare an immunizing serum the injection of killed culture or enveloped toxine is sufficient, while to prepare an antitoxic one, either the culture must be living, or the toxins in a soluble form and injected into a vein. Hence the difficulty; it is a most complex problem to dissolve the cellulose envelope of the microbe and set free its toxine without producing a chemical change in the product, and the matter is under continual experiment. That it will be solved eventually there is no doubt, but in the meantime the horses have to be treated with live culture, and the process is one requiring great caution and care, as accidents not infrequently happen, and the treatment of the horse has to be suspended. It will thus be seen that the whole matter is one involved in a great deal of difficulty, and requiring much earnest thought and work for its solution.

Nevertheless, I do not think it possible at this time to overrate the importance of the study of the toxins and antitoxines of the infectious and contagious diseases, as, to my mind, upon its development rests the whole future of preventive medicine. The study is at once fascinating and discouraging, for new difficulties constantly arise to take the place of those which have been overcome by laborious effort.

I have the honor, sir, to remain, very respectfully, yours,

H. D. GEDDINGS,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Yellow fever on the German bark Zion.*

[Telegram.]

LEWES, DEL., June 24, 1897.

German bark *Zion*, forty days from Rio, in ballast, 15 crew, all well, arrived this afternoon. Had 2 cases yellow at Rio and 2 en route. Ordered to New York and proceeded without pratique; quarantined while here.

WERTENBAKER,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Plague at Jedda and Mecca.*

77-79 RUE NOTRE DAME DES CHAMPS,

*Paris, France, June 15, 1897.*

SIR: In confirmation of my cablegram of the 9th instant announcing rumors of the existence of the plague at Jedda and Mecca, I have the honor to inform you that the news of the existence of plague at Jedda has been officially confirmed. Mecca is still in doubt, though there is little hope that, having reached the seaport, Mecca will escape a visitation. News has also been received here of the appearance of the plague in certain places upon the Chinese frontier, and ere this, I suppose, you have the information as to the outbreak in Formosa. The disease, therefore, appears to be making rapid extensions.

Very respectfully,

H. D. GEDDINGS,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*